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Security Council

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Letter dated 7 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In the Arab world and in the world as a whole, and at both official and non-governmental levels, there have been increasing calls for the lifting of the inhuman sanctions that have been maintained against Iraq for more than 10 years and for a halt to all forms of aggression against the country, including the no-flight zones imposed by the United States and the United Kingdom in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Council of Arab Economic Unity, whose membership includes Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Libya, Egypt, Iraq, the Sudan and Palestine, recently held its seventy-first session in Cairo. In its resolution 1123 of 7 June 2000 (see annex), adopted at that session, the Council calls for the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq, affirms its rejection of the no-flight zones imposed on parts of Iraq and of interference in the country's internal affairs, condemns military incursions into Iraq's territory, and urges the Arab States to expand their trade with Iraq.

This resolution gives clear expression to a truth that is perceived by the Arab States, namely that the consequences of the embargo do not affect Iraq alone but also have a direct impact on Arab economic integration. Iraq represents a basic element in joint Arab action for development and progress, and the maintenance of the embargo and the disruption of the development process for Iraq and for the entire Arab world are blatantly incompatible with all the relevant international conventions and covenants and with the goals of the United Nations. In its resolution, the Council also affirms Arab rejection of the bellicose conduct of the United States and the United Kingdom in enforcing the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq, which constitutes wanton aggression against an independent State, a dangerous precedent for the norms governing relations between States and a violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

This resolution is but one example of the many demands and appeals by means of which the peoples of the world have expressed the call of human conscience for an end to the use of the Security Council as an instrument for the perpetration of genocide against the people of Iraq. The Security Council must respond to the desire of the international community and to the logic of truth, justice and fairness, and it must end the comprehensive sanctions imposed on Iraq and halt all forms of aggression against the country if it is to be faithful to its role under the Charter of the United Nations.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 7 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Council of Arab Economic Unity resolution 1123 of 7 June 2000

[The Council of Arab Economic Unity,]

1. Reaffirms its previous resolutions and urges the international community to lift the embargo that has been maintained against the Republic of Iraq for more than nine years, given that this would have the positive effect of mitigating the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people as it sustains damage in material, human and moral terms because of the embargo and of enhancing the Arab economic integration in whose achievement the Republic of Iraq has an active role to play;

2. Demands the immediate implementation of paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and, with the country having met all of its obligations, the lifting of the total embargo imposed on Iraq;

3. Urges the countries of the world to adopt a resolute stance against all measures, endeavours and resolutions aimed at perpetuating the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq;

4. Reaffirms its call to the Arab States to take appropriate measures to expand their trade with Iraq so as to help mitigate the effects of the embargo;

5. Calls upon Arab and non-Arab States to give effect to Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. Affirms the maintenance of the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and rejects interference in its internal affairs;

7. Rejects the no-flight zones imposed on parts of Iraq as being in breach of the norms of international law and given their negative and dangerous repercussions for the economic and social conditions of the fraternal Iraqi people;

8. Calls upon Arab and non-Arab countries to resume their flights to Iraq and to facilitate the movement of goods and persons by land, sea and air;

9. Condemns the recurring Turkish military incursions into the Republic of Iraq, which constitute wanton aggression against Iraq, and affirms respect for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity;

10. Requests the Secretary-General of the Council to monitor the implementation of this resolution by member States and to submit a report thereon to the Council at its next session.